THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Procedure of child adoption

576. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Non-Governmental Organisations have pointed out that existing procedures of child adoption in the country are faulty leading to child trafficking; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for OBC status to Muslims in Assam

577. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam is considering a proposal to grant all the Muslims in the State the status of Other Backward Classes (OBC's);

(b) if so, whether Government have received any formal proposal from the Government of Assam in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Govt. of Assam is examining whether the prevailing socio-economic condition and the educational backwardness of the Muslims justify them to be included in the State List of Backward Classes. The Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on 16-11-1992 in the case of Indira Sawhney and others *Vs.* Union of India and others directed the